



**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region**



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

October 7, 2009

Dear Interested Parties:

**SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. R3-2009-0052, APPROVING THE
2009 TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE BASIN PLAN**

On July 10, 2009, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Water Board) adopted Resolution No. R3-2009-0052 (enclosed) approving the 2009 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) and adopting a 2009 Priority List of Issues to be evaluated for Basin Plan Amendments.

Water Board staff will forward this Resolution and a complete record of the Triennial Review process to the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality for approval.

If you have questions concerning this action, please contact Steven G. Saiz, at (805) 549-3879 or at ssaiz@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,


for Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Resolution No. R3-2009-0052

cc: Basin Planning Triennial Review Interested Parties List (via electronic mail)

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**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, California 93401**

**RESOLUTION R3-2009-0052
JULY 10, 2009**

**APPROVING THE 2009 TRIENNIAL REVIEW
OF THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN (BASIN PLAN)
FOR THE CENTRAL COAST REGION
AND ADOPTING A 2009 PRIORITY LIST OF ISSUES
TO BE EVALUATED FOR BASIN PLAN AMENDMENTS**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (hereafter Central Coast Water Board) finds:

1. The Central Coast Water Board adopted the second edition of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan) on September 8, 1994. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses and water quality objectives, sets forth programs of implementation to achieve water quality objectives addressing point source and nonpoint source discharges, adopts prohibitions, and incorporates statewide plans and policies.
2. State and Federal laws require a triennial review of the Basin Plan.
3. In accordance with section 303(c)(1) of the federal Clean Water Act and section 13240 of the California Water Code, the Central Coast Water Board has concluded its 2009 triennial water quality standards review.
4. Central Coast Water Board staff implemented the triennial review by performing the following:
 - a. Sending a letter to interested persons dated March 26, 2009, soliciting comments on the Basin Plan;
 - b. Circulating a list of present and potential water quality issues for the Central Coast Basin Plan for public comment during a public comment period from April 10, 2009 to May 26, 2009;
 - c. Conducting a public workshop on April 22, 2009;
 - d. Responding to all significant public comments received during the designated period;
 - e. Noticing and conducting a public hearing before the Water Board on July 10, 2009, to receive oral comments on the existing Basin Plan and new issues, including water quality standards and implementation plans.

5. The Central Coast Water Board intends to prioritize Basin Plan amendment projects toward achieving the vision of Healthy Watersheds and the greatest possible outcome for water quality improvement in the Central Coast Region.
6. As a result of the triennial review process, Central Coast Water Board staff identified the priority issues list shown in Attachment 1.
7. The Central Coast Water Board notified all known interested persons of its intent to adopt the 2009 Priority List of issues to be developed into Basin Plan amendments as resources become available in fulfillment of the 2009 Triennial Review.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Central Coast Water Board hereby certifies completion of the 2009 Basin Plan Triennial Review and adopts the *2009 Priority List of Issues to be Evaluated as Basin Plan Amendments* as set forth in Attachment 1 to this Resolution; and
2. The Central Coast Water Board may address issues described in the 2009 Basin Plan Triennial Review staff report but not included in Attachment 1, as staff and external resources may become available;
3. Central Coast Water Board staff may present items for the Water Board's consideration prior to higher priority issues in the event a lower priority issue is completed; and
4. Adoption of this triennial review does not preclude other Basin Plan revisions, which may become necessary before the next triennial review scheduled for 2012;

I, ROGER W. BRIGGS, Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, on July 10, 2009.


Assistant Executive Officer

July 10, 2009
Date

Attachment 1

2009 Priority List of Issues to be Evaluated as Basin Plan Amendments

Priority	Issue	Description	Estimated Resource Needs (PY) ¹
1	Vision Framework	Formally incorporate the Central Coast Water Board's Vision of Healthy Watersheds, associated measurable goals, and data assessment and management methodology to support tracking progress toward achieving these measurable goals.	0.3
2	Biostimulatory Substances Objective Revision	Revise the narrative biostimulatory substances objective, replace with numeric objective(s). Assign the numeric objective to protect specific beneficial uses. In conjunction with this effort, additional water quality objectives for specific nutrients or nutrient-loading indicators should be added to the Basin Plan (Ammonia, Nitrite, Nitrate, Organic Nitrogen, Phosphate, Chlorophyll a). Various water quality objectives related to biostimulation in Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan need reevaluation or revision (Dissolved Oxygen, Temperature, Turbidity, and pH).	1.0
3	Aquatic Life Protection	Adopt numeric water quality objectives for several Basin Plan narrative water quality objectives, including turbidity and toxicity that protect aquatic life beneficial uses.	0.6
4	Watershed Protection	Consistent with the Vision of Healthy Watersheds, amend the Implementation chapter of the Basin Plan to require local municipalities and other entities with landuse authority to incorporate performance measures in their landuse decisions that will ensure healthy watersheds.	1.0
5	Groundwater Recharge Area Protection	Consistent with the Vision of Healthy Watersheds, develop land use guidelines and/or prohibitions for the purpose of protecting groundwater recharge areas within the Central Coast Region. Guidelines should include controls on chemigation and fertigation operations to protect the contamination of aquifers. Develop a numeric nitrate water quality objective to protect groundwater recharge areas.	1.0
6	Aquatic Habitat Protection / Riparian Buffer Zone Protections	Building upon the efforts of statewide and regional riparian and wetland policies and consistent with the Vision of Healthy Watersheds, amend the Implementation Plan chapter of the Basin Plan to ensure protection of aquatic habitat and riparian areas. To achieve this goal, staff may also need to amend the Basin Plan present and potential beneficial uses and water quality objectives chapters to provide the basis for requiring amendments to the Implementation Plan chapter.	1.0

¹ Estimated personnel years (PY) required to accomplish the project over the next three years.

7	Revision of Groundwater Objectives	Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan contains selected objectives for all groundwater (Section II.A.4) and for specific groundwater basins (Section II.A.5). The water quality objectives in Section II.A.5, established for specific groundwater basins, should be expanded to all groundwater basins. Develop a region-wide salt and nutrient policy in accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board recycled water policy adopted in February 2009 (Resolution 2009-0011).	1.0
8	Comprehensive Basin Plan Editorial Revisions	Revise and eliminate outdated paragraphs, tables, figures, references to outdated Policies, and appendices in the Basin Plan. Create maps of water body location as part of the beneficial uses Table 2.1. This includes update of references (e.g. Title 22, CTR, etc.). Incorporate amendments adopted since the last comprehensive compilation of the Basin Plan, the September 8, 1994 edition. Post revised Basin Plan on the Regional Water Board Basin Plan website.	0.5
9	Designation of Beneficial Uses	Evaluate adequacy of existing Basin Plan beneficial uses for the following water bodies in Santa Barbara County: Blosser, Bradley and West Main Street Channels; Santa Maria River; Sycamore Creek; Atascadero Creek; Glen Annie Canyon; Maria Ygnacio Creek; San Jose Creek; and San Pedro Creek.	1.0
10	Groundwater Basin Configurations Update	Update groundwater basin configurations in Basin Plan Table 2-3 and Figure 2-2 using new groundwater reference materials, including the 2003 Department of Water Resources Bulletin No.118 and the San Luis Obispo County Paso Robles groundwater basin study, and the Llagas groundwater subbasin in the Gilroy-Hollister groundwater basin.	0.5
11	Bacteria Objectives Revision for <i>E. coli</i> in Freshwater	Revise existing bacteria objectives to incorporate an <i>E. coli</i> objective for water contact recreation in surface waters. Include acceptable analytical methods.	0.5
12	Bacteria Objectives Revision for <i>Enterococcus</i> in Saline Waters	Revise existing bacteria objectives to incorporate an <i>Enterococcus</i> objective for water contact recreation in enclosed bays and estuaries (saline waters). The Basin Plan currently has objectives only for total coliform.	0.5
13	Tributary Rule	Amend Beneficial Use chapter of the Basin Plan to include a tributary rule that would clarify beneficial uses in tributary streams.	0.5